

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 1915(b) PROGRAM

Project Name:	Medi-Cal Mental Health Care Field Test (San Mateo County) Program
Project Renewal Approval:	July 23, 2001
Project Renewal Expiration:	July 29, 2003

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The State of California operates a Medicaid managed care program, entitled Medi-Cal Mental Health Care Field Test (San Mateo County), under the authority of a 1915(b) waiver. The California Department of Mental Health (DMH) operates the Medi-Cal Mental Health Care Field Test (San Mateo County) waiver program through an interagency agreement with Department of Health Services (DHS). DMH contracts with the San Mateo County Mental Health Plan for provision of specialty mental services. The waiver establishes a county wide mental health system that consolidates the delivery of both psychiatric inpatient hospital services and all non-hospital specialty mental health services. The goals of the waiver are to reduce costs by preventing unnecessary and inappropriate utilization of costly inpatient acute care services, and to assure adequate access to specialty mental health services for Medicaid recipients in San Mateo County. Enrollment in the waiver is mandatory. The current two-year waiver renewal expires on July 29, 2003.

HEALTH CARE DELIVERY

Under this managed care model, the San Mateo County Mental Health Plan contracts with selected providers that have demonstrated the ability to provide effective and efficient specialty mental health services through factors such as shorter hospitalization stays, competent discharge planning, and coordination with county case management. The county's 45,500 Medicaid recipients receive all medically necessary specialty mental health services from providers that contract with San Mateo County Mental Health Plan.

BENEFIT/SERVICE PACKAGE

The program provides all medically necessary specialty mental health services to Medicaid recipients in San Mateo County.

COST EFFECTIVENESS

California projects savings of \$7,143,405 during the two years of the renewal.

Contact – Linda Abbott – 410-786-4662 – E-mail – Labbott@cms.hhs.gov

Updated – 7/3/02